

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/917,956

Examiner

Meltin Bell

Applicant(s)

KINDO, TOSHIKI

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/13/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 33-39, 42-47 and 50-52.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/707,565.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 2/23/05
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Examiner's Amendment and Response to Amendment

This action is responsive to Application **09/917,956** filed 07/31/2001 as well as the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Amendment filed 12/13/04. Claims 33-39, 42-47 and 50-52 filed by the applicant have been entered and examined.

Claims 33-39, 42-47 and 50-52 are allowed with the changes agreed to under formal examiner's amendment as shown below:

- Amendment Page 2, Claim 34 - "keyboard" was replaced by --keyword--
- Amendment Page 3, Claim 36 - "keyboard" was replaced by --keyword--
- Amendment Page 4, Claim 38 - "keyboard" was replaced by --keyword--
- Application Page 1, Lines 4 and 5 - TITLE OF THE INVENTION was deleted.
- Application Page 1, Lines 4 and 5 - a replacement TITLE OF THE INVENTION was inserted:

KEYWORD DICTIONARY PRODUCING METHOD AND APPARATUS

- Application Page 1, Line 6 - CONTINUATION DATA has been added.

This application is a division of Application No. 09/506,600 filed on February 18, 2000, now United States Patent No. 6,327,583 issued on December 4, 2001, which is a division of Application No. 08/707,565 filed on September 4, 1996, now United States Patent No. 6,076,082 issued on June 13, 2000.

- Application Pages 115-116 - the ABSTRACT was deleted.
- Application Page 115 - a replacement ABSTRACT was inserted:

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A method and apparatus for producing a keyword dictionary using a computer includes inputting a user's necessity or a user's non-necessity for each of pieces of information data, wherein one or more keywords are attached to the information data. A summed necessity value relating to the user's necessities inputted for the pieces of information data and a summed non-necessity value relating to the user's non-necessities inputted for the pieces of information data are calculated. A difference between the summed necessity value and the summed non-necessity value for each of the keywords is calculated, and a predication value predicting a user's necessity degree for each of the keywords according to the differences, respectively, relating to the keywords, is calculated. Each prediction value calculated is assigned to the corresponding keyword.

Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this formal examiner's amendment was given in telephone interviews with Mr. Christopher W. Brody and by fax on 2/23-24/05.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The reason for allowance of the claims is the calculating a difference between the summed necessity value and the summed non-necessity value for each of the keywords. None of the cited references, and, in particular, *Maeda et al* Japanese Patent Number (JPN) 406243173, *Morita* United States Patent Number (USPN)

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5,297,042, *Duke-Moran et al* USPN 5,819,259, *Tajima* JPN 405128153, *Ogawa* USPN 5,535,382, *Rose et al* USPN 5,724,567 and *Nomura et al* "A Method for Retrieval of a Target Still Image By Selecting Similar and Dissimilar Images", disclose this limitation upon further consideration.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance"

Correspondence Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Meltin Bell whose telephone number is 571-272-3680. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 4:00 pm EST.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 571-272-3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MB / *am. b.*
February 24, 2005


Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600